

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

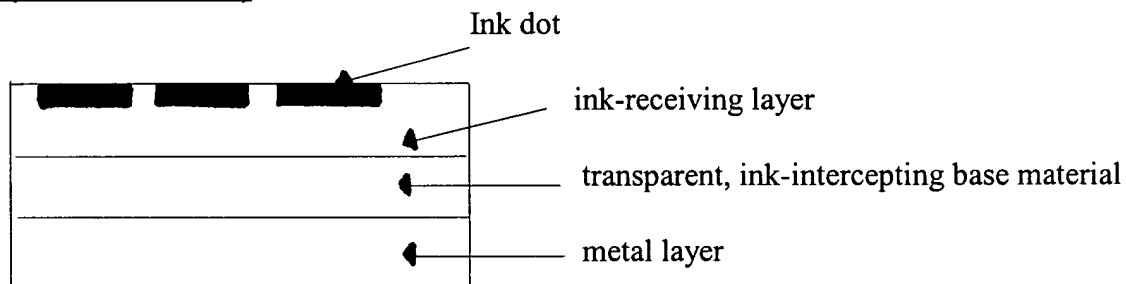
Claims 11-16, 18 and 20 are pending in the present application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 11 is amended herein to clarify that the surface of the ink-receiving layer is an outer surface of the printed matter; support may be found at least in the Examples in the specification. Claim 38 is cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claims 11-16, 18, 20 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Cahill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,398). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection as applied to the present claims.

Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be useful to review some features and advantages of the claimed invention. As recited in independent Claim 11, the present invention relates to a printed matter printed with ink dots on an ink-receiving layer of a recording medium. The recording medium comprises a transparent, ink-intercepting base material that has a first face and a second face, a metal layer formed on the first face of the base material, and an ink-receiving layer provided on the second face of the base material. The surface of the ink-receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the printed matter. The first face of the transparent base material on the metal layer side is embossed. At least one of solid printed areas of yellow, magenta, and cyan colors has maximum specular glossiness within a measurement angle range of from 20° to 60°.

In the present invention, as shown in the following Figure A, the ink-intercepting base material on the metal layer side is embossed, and an image brightened like a rainbow can be formed. Moreover, since a transparent, ink-intercepting base material is formed between the metal layer and the ink-receiving layer, moisture and dyes contained in the ink in the ink-receiving layer do not react with the metal layer. Thus, the metallic luster can be maintained for a long time. In Applicants' view, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Figure A (Present Invention)



In Cahill et al., an image is formed by ink-jet imaging on the ink-receptive layer (16) formed on the protective layer (14) on the temporary carrier layer (12) to obtain the ink imaged layer (18) (see Figure 2). That is, in the finally recorded material of Cahill et al., the image is observed through the protective layer (14).

In the claimed invention, the surface of the ink-receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the printed matter. In contrast, Cahill et al. discloses a printed matter wherein the image is observed through the protective layer. Therefore, the present invention, in which the image is not observed through a protective layer, is neither taught nor suggested by Cahill et al.

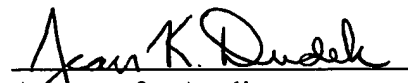
Furthermore, Applicants do not see Cahill et al. as disclosing or suggesting the structure of the present invention in which a transparent, ink-intercepting base material is sandwiched between a metal layer and an ink-receiving layer.

Applicants conclude that the cited reference does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in Claim 11, and request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection. Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given regarding Claim 11, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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